



SPCA Serving Erie County

Surgical-Shelter Medicine Externship

The SPCA Serving Erie County admits more than 8,500 cats and dogs annually, and performs an average of 100 surgeries per week. The SPCA has one head veterinarian and six veterinarians who assist the head veterinarian as needed. The Veterinary department consists of eleven licensed veterinary technicians and two assistants.

Objective: The student will gain a comprehensive overview of the animal sheltering system, shelter medicine and develop specific veterinary surgical skills. This externship includes spay/neuter and other surgical experience.

Requirements: The student must have completed at least 2.5 years of coursework at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine. Junior surgery and the soft tissue rotation must be completed before the externship begins.

Housing: The SPCA Serving Erie County will be able to arrange the student to stay in a staff or volunteer's home for their externship free of charge. The student will need a car to go back and forth to the shelter. The student is on their own for meals.

Minimum Length of Externship: A two week commitment is required. We perform spay/neuter surgery seven days a week. There is no emergency duty.

The organization will offer this externship year round.

Description: The extern will work closely with the staff veterinarians on all aspects of shelter medicine and will have the opportunity to perform spay/neuter surgeries under the direct supervision of the staff veterinarian. Surgeries include sterilization of shelter animals (dogs, cats and rabbits), possible orthopedic procedures (Fracture repair, FHO, and amputations), and soft tissue procedures (mass removal, enterotomy, and cystotomy), and assist the staff veterinarian with entropion, exploratorys, enucleations, and cherry eye surgery. The type and quantity of surgeries performed by the student depends on the cases present during their externship, the student's ability and the discretion of the staff veterinarian.

Contact Information:

Debby Williams
Veterinary Services Manager
SPCA Serving Erie County
205 Ensminger Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
DebbyW@spcaec.com